for distribution of natural gas and auto LPG in cities of Andhra Pradesh. Initially, Hyderabad/Secunderabad have been identified for dispensing auto LPG by the proposed Joint Venture Company.

GAIL will consider city gas distribution including CNG in other cities after establishing technical feasibility and economic viability of the respective projects.

Amount locked in litigation

*329. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Rs. 10,000 crore locked in tax litigation" which appeared in the 'Business Standard' dated 27th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to liquidate the huge mounting arrears of cases pertaining to tax litigation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)The news report discusses the appointment of a panel of lawyers to conduct customs and excise cases in High Courts. This is a matter of discussion between the Department of Revenue and the Law Ministry.

(c) Liquidating arrears of cases is a continuing process involving reforms in the tax structure, simplifying laws and procedures, setting up of new forums for disposal of cases, etc. It is Government's constant endeavour to bring down arrears of cases.

Financial package for coffee and tea growers

*330. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rescheduled the loans availed by coffee and tea growers and have put two year moratorium on repayment of principal amount;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;